

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CY, GR

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: MAKARIOS PROMISES TO CULTIVATE UNITY AMONG
GREEK CYPRIOTS

1. IN PRESS INTERVIEW DECEMBER 2 ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS SAID AFTER
HIS RETURN TO CYPRUS HE WILL ATTEMPT TO CULTIVATE SPIRIT OF
CONCILIATION AND UNITY AMONG GREEK CYPRIOTS. ARCHBISHOP TOLD
NEWSMEN THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THERE WERE "MARGINS FOR FURTHER
HARDENING OF TURKISH STAND AS RESULT OF HIS RETURN TO CYPRUS."
TO QUESTION ON TURKISH DEMARCHE TO GREECE REGARDING HIS RETURN TO
ISLAND, MAKARIOS RESPONDED THAT IF SUCH DEMARCHE HAD BEEN MADE, IT
INDICATED TURKS WERE UNDER IMPRESSION THAT DISTURBANCES MIGHT
BREAK OUT AMONG GREEK CYPRIOTS AND THAT THIS SHOULD BE DENIED.
"IT IS INADMISSIBLE THAT AT A MOMENT WHEN WE FACE A NATIONAL
TRAGEDY, CYPRIOT HELLENISM SHOULD BE DIVIDED AND QUARRELS AND
DISSENT COULD EXIST BETWEEN GREEKS ON THE ISLAND."

2. ASKED WHETHER ANY DISAGREEMENTS AROSE DURING HIS TALKS
WITH PM CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT, ARCHBISHOP REPLIED THAT SUNDAY'S
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JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS CLEAR. "A COMMON LINE OF POLICY WAS DRAWN

UP, BUT I CANNOT DISCLOSE ITS CONTENTS." ARCHBISHOP SAID HE WOULD STUDY QUESTION OF GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE IN CYPRUS AS SOON AS HE RETURNS AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH COLLABORATORS AND OTHERS. TO QUESTION WHETHER HE CARRIED BACK OLIVE BRANCH, ARCHBISHOP REPLIED "NOT ONLY AN OLIVE BRANCH BUT I AM BRINGING ALONG WITH ME AN ENTIRE OLIVE TREE." TO FURTHER QUERY WHETHER CLERIDES WOULD CONTINUE AS GREEK/CYPRIOT REPRESENTATIVE IN INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, MAKARIOS SAID MR. CLERIDES MUST ALWAYS CONTINUE AS NEGOTIATOR. ARCHBISHOP ADDED HE WAS TRYING TO SOLVE REFUGEE PROBLEM ON ISLAND, AND CYPRIOT CHURCH WAS AIDING THIS EFFORT. MAKARIOS CONCLUDED BY REMARKING THAT HE HAD PROPOSALS FOR RESOLVING BREACH IN GREEK CYPRIOT CHURCH AND TOWARD THIS END WAS MEETING WITH METROPOLITANS OF PAPHOS AND KITIUM WHO WERE ALSO IN ATHENS.

3. NEWS MEDIA GAVE FULL COVERAGE TO ARCHBISHOP'S REMARKS AND TO HIS PRESENCE FOR MEMORIAL SERVICE AT POLYTECHNION WHERE HE PLACED LAUREL WREATH FOR 1973 RIOT VICTIMS. PRESS ALSO REPORTED ARCHBISHOP'S MEETING WITH PASOK CHAIRMAN ANDREAS PAPANDREOU AND DEPUTIES OF GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY (INTERIOR).
STEARNS

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